



# Newsletter of the

Tayside and Fife Archaeological  
Committee

Issue Two - October 2007

## Second Newsletter

This is the second newsletter of the Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee, the first appearing in July. The Editor and the rest of the Committee are keen to hear from any reader of the newsletter, in particular our corresponding members, what they think about it? Does it contain the type of information you need? Is there anything obvious missing from its content? What about its style? its format? Please let the editor know your thoughts and opinions by contacting him at the email address at the bottom of this column.

## TAFAC Web Site

The redesigned TAFAC web site is now up and running ([www.tafac.org.uk](http://www.tafac.org.uk)) and looking very good. But the Committee wants to hear from those who use it. One thing people might note about the redesigned site is that there is much less information about who is on the Committee and what they do on the Committee. Does this matter? Does it make the Committee seem less open than previously, when biographies of all the Committee members were available? Or does it make the website more streamlined?

Previously, information in the form of short abstracts was provided for each of the papers published in our journals. Was this useful or will a simple list of titles suffice? Let the Committee know via the editor --- [johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk)

## 2007 Conference

A number of changes have been made to the provisional 2007 Conference (St Andrews, Saturday, 3rd November). Steve Liscoe and Oliver O'Grady have had to pull out, though both have said that they would be happy to speak at next year's conference. Additions to the original programme are John Sherriff, who, in his capacity as Conference Organiser, will give a short talk on the results of the survey that was undertaken at last year's conference in Perth.

The Committee is also very pleased to welcome the Scotland's Rural Past team to the conference. In addition to hearing from one of the team, which is based at RCAHMS in Edinburgh, we will hear from two local volunteer members, Peter Gordon and Flora Davidson, who will tell us about '*The Glen Clova SRP Project: the documentary approach*'.



A fine flint tool reported to Dundee Museums and recently submitted to the Treasure Trove Unit (see back page). Photo: Crown Copyright

## News from Dundee Museums

Dundee Museums have announced that a series of free fortnightly public tours of the new McManus Collections Unit in Barrack Street will take place throughout 2007. This unit, which is housed in the former Ward Road Library Building, is the new permanent home for the city's museum collections. The relocation of the collections to this newly fitted-out facility will free up more space in the McManus Galleries and Museum in Albert Square and allow improved exhibition and visitor facilities.

### TOURS

The tours, as well as offering a fascinating 'behind the scenes' glimpse of the museum collection, also give participants a chance to have their say as to how the Collections Unit should be open to the public in future. As this currently houses the majority of the service working towards the new Museum, present access to the building is strictly limited to those booking a place on the tour.

### TIMES

There are two tours every second Friday throughout 2007 -- one at 11.00am and the other at 2.00pm. Each tour lasts approximately one hour and because places are limited to 10 per session advance booking is essential. The remaining dates this year are 26 Oct; 9 Nov; 23 Nov; 7 Dec.

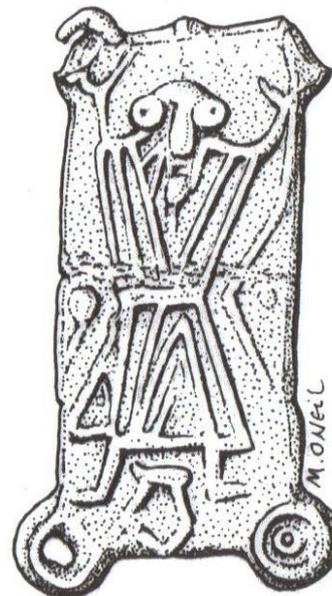
### CONTACT

To book your free place, or for further information, please contact Maureen Leslie, Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee, Telephone: (01382) 433244 or email: [maureen.leslie@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.leslie@dundeecity.gov.uk)

## New Pilgrim badge found

An exciting discovery of a St Andrew pilgrim badge was made in September. When metal detectorist Kevin Brereton was working in the Crail area. He realized that what looked like a small piece of lead was a medieval pilgrim badge and took it to St Andrews Museum. Gavin Grant, the Collections Team Leader in Fife Council Libraries & Museums, examined the badge. He reports that the face of St Andrew was visible, poking through the dirt, and that the badge retains two loops that would have been used by a pilgrim to sew the badge onto their clothing. The badge is currently at the National Museums of Scotland for conservation and Treasure Trove assessment.

St Andrews Museum has two St Andrew badges – one excavated near St Andrews Castle in 1989 and the other found in London. The latter rectangular-shaped badge is similar to the recent Crail find (see illustration below).



St Andrew Pilgrim badge from Craig, Fife. Illustration by Marion O'Neil.

# Major Roman conference for Perth

## FIRST CONTACT: ROME AND NORTHERN BRITAIN

TAFAC is pleased to announce that its next special conference will be held in Perth on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008. The conference will debate the timetable, nature and significance of Rome's first contact with Scotland, particularly in the context of contact with Northern Britain.

The conference will be held at the Dewars Rinks conference centre ([www.ConferenceScotland.com](http://www.ConferenceScotland.com)), Perth, Scotland, 9.00am start. A confirmed programme and abstracts will shortly be available for those who book a place.

## SPEAKERS AND THEMES

David Breeze (Historic Scotland/UNESCO Frontiers of the Roman Empire): *Scene setting*

Pete Wilson (English Heritage): *Pushing North? The Humber frontier and the expansion into Yorkshire reconsidered.*

David Shotter (Lancaster University): *When did the Romans invade Scotland?*

David Woolliscroft (Liverpool University/Roman Gask Project): *79AD and all that: when did the Romans reach Perthshire?*

Gordon Maxwell (formerly RCAHMS): *Agricola and sons: text and translation*

Birgitta Hoffmann (Liverpool University/Roman Gask Project): *Cardean: The changing face of a Flavian fort in Scotland*

Bill Hanson (Glasgow University): *The fort at Elginhaugh and its implications for Agricola's role in the conquest of Scotland*

Rebecca Jones (RCAHMS): *Chasing the Army: the problems of dating temporary camps*

## 180 PLACES AVAILABLE

Although 200 places is the legal safety limit for the size of the audience at Dewars Rinks, by the time places are reserved for speakers, organisers, dignitaries and other special guests, only about 180 places will be available to the general public. These places will be allocated through advance booking on a first come, first served basis. As part of the celebrations marking the centenary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, RCAHMS are sponsoring the price of entry for the first five applications by students studying archaeology at any UK University (proof required). Again, allocation of these free tickets will be on a first come, first served basis.

## FURTHER DETAILS

For further details and to book a place please contact Mark A Hall at Perth Museum & Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth, PH1 5LB, Tel: 01738 632488, Email [mahall@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:mahall@pkc.gov.uk)

The conference fee is £15.00 and cheques should be made payable to 'TAFAC'.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This conference is likely to be very popular, and will attract considerable attention from both within and without the Tayside and Fife area. The editor urges applicants to get their forms off to Mark Hall as soon as possible.



### Two items recently allocated to museums in Fife by the Treasure Trove Panel:

Left: A decorated spindle whorl from Leven – allocated to Kirkcaldy Museum.

Right: A Neolithic carved stone ball from Pitmillly Law – allocated to NE Fife Museums.

Both images are Crown Copyright (see [www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk))

# PERTH YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB NEEDS YOU!

PERTH YAC is a branch of the national Young Archaeologists' Club (aimed at 8 to 15 year olds), which encourages and fosters interest in archaeology. The branch, which currently has 25 members, is looking for enthusiastic helpers to join in running the Club for 2007 to 2008.

Planned events include activities field trips and activities on the 2nd Saturday of every Month from April to December. Forth- coming events include:

---A trip to see the 3000 year old Carpow Logboat during conservation at Granton Conservation Lab, Edinburgh.

--- A visit to Stirling Castle / Wallace Monument.

--- EGYPTOMANIA II – meet the mummy at Perth Museum, Egyptian food, Gods and hieroglyphs.

*Past summer activities have included an outing to the fort on Dunsinane Hill – Macbeth's Castle; a march along the Gask Ridge with The Antonine Guard, followed by a Roman style picnic; Stone carving – Pictish symbols and stone age cup marks.*



Members of Perth Young Archaeologist Club visit the excavation of the homestead at Black Spout, Pitlochry, Perthshire – photo courtesy of PKHT.



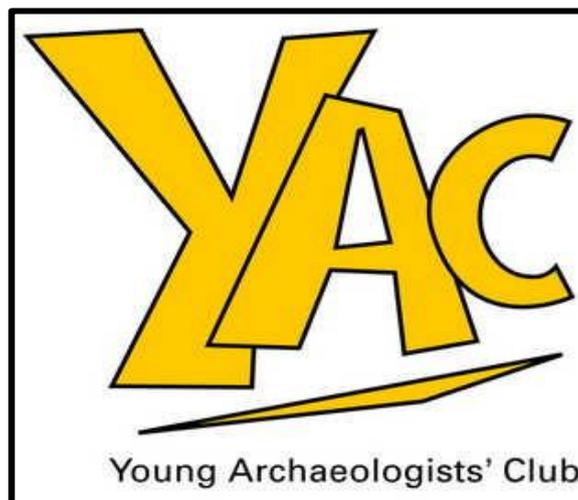
'Egyptomania' at Perth Museum and Art Gallery' -- photo courtesy of PKHT.

**VOLUNTEERS NEED NOT HAVE ANY SPECIALIST EXPERIENCE ---- ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS AN INTEREST IN HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY OR THE ENVIRONMENT.**

To volunteer with Perth YAC you need to be over 16 and to complete a CRBS disclosure check.

For more information, contact Sarah (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust) on 01738 477080.

[www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/)



## Logboat conference

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT) hosted a well attended and enjoyable conference at Jamesfield, Abernethy, on 29th September. Delegates heard the story of the discovery of the 3000 year old Carpow logboat by a metal detectorist in 2001, what steps were taken to assess the options for its future treatment – should it be left in the Tay mud or removed to a safe place – how it was moved to its present location in a conservation lab in Edinburgh, how it was dated and how it is being conserved.

A broad range of speakers set the logboat into context by explaining the paleo-environmental background, the evidence for contemporary settlement, the artefactual evidence, and how the boat might have worked. In highlighting the importance of the Carpow logboat, its significance in both national and international contexts was explained.



The Carpow logboat in the conservation laboratory, Granton, Edinburgh. Photo courtesy of the Treasure Trove Panel.

## Bronze Age burial urn returns home

In 1967 a housing development on Callum's Hill, Crieff exposed a bronze age burial cairn containing the Food Vessel Urn shown in the accompanying photograph. The urn contained the cremated bones of three individuals (including two children age 8-10 and 3-5) along with some goat bones.

The urn and cremated bone came to Perth Museum shortly afterwards and were on display. Around about 1970 the finder and donor reclaimed the Urn and it returned to his house on Callum's Hill. It remained at the house and passed through the hands of three or four different owners of the property. When the most recent of those moved on he kindly restored the urn to Perth Museum.

The urn and its contents are currently undergoing further analysis including C-14 dating. Once this is complete it will go on display once again in Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Watch this space!



An Early Bronze Age Cinerary Urn from Callum's Hill, Crieff. Photo courtesy of Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

## Treasure Trove for Dundee Museum?

Coming before the Scottish Finds Allocation Panel Meeting on 23 October, 2007 is a Neolithic bifacial flint implement identified by Alan Saville (see illustration on front page). This surface find was spotted by Mrs Sandra Scott during a walk in the Western Cemetery, Perth Road, Dundee (NGR NO 3800 29890) about seven years ago.

Dundee City Museum has filed a bid for the object, which would help to fill a gap in Neolithic material in the Regional Archaeology collection.

Two Bronze Age vessels, one a cinerary urn and the other a Food Vessel, which were found in the Western Cemetery in the 19th century when the first lairs were being dug out, are already in Dundee City Museum (accession numbers 1969-253 and 1964-47 respectively).

## Edinburgh lecture

Readers may be interested in the first lecture in the Edinburgh University, Dept. of Archaeology Friday Seminar

Series. It will be held jointly with the Northern Scholars Scheme and will take place on Thursday 11th October. The lecture is:

### PROFESSOR KNUT ANDREAS BERGSVIK

(Department of Archaeology, University of Bergen)

*"The importance of landscape and landscape perceptions to in-group and between group relations among hunter-fishers of Neolithic western Norway"*

It will take place in the Lecture theatre in the Archaeology Department, Old High School, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh.

## More artefacts from Fife

Pictured below are just some of the objects from Fife that will soon come before the Scottish Finds Allocation Panel Meeting.



Paleolithic hand-axe from Culross



Medieval silver-gilt ring from Kinglassie



Post-medieval lead seal matrix from Culross



Barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead from Tayport

All images courtesy of the Treasure Trove Unit and are Crown Copyright. To learn more about the work of the Treasure Trove Unit please see their website at:

[www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk)